

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE STATEMENTS ON TONGSUN PARK
NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE ISSUED TODAY BY
HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN FLYNT AND
COMMITTEE SPECIAL COUNSEL LEON JAWORSKI:

2. FLYNT STATEMENT:

QUOTE

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PAGE 02 STATE 295028

A PRESS REPORT FROM SOUTH KOREA INDICATES THAT
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN OUR EMBASSY OFFICES IN SEOUL AND
SOUTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONDITIONAL ON
TONGSUN PARK BEING MADE AVAILABLE AS A WITNESS IN THE
UNITED STATES ONLY TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND NOT TO
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES INVESTIGATING SOUTH KOREAN
ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. ANY SUCH

AGREEMENT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THIS COMMITTEE AND WOULD HAMPER THE INVESTIGATION NOW IN PROGRESS. CONGRESS IS ENTITLED TO TESTIMONY OF TONGSUN PARK TO THE SAME EXTENT AS ANY OTHER BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND HIS TESTIMONY SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THIS COMMITTEE AT AN EARLY DATE SO AS TO AVOID UNDUE DELAYS IN THE COMMITTEE'S HEARING. UNQUOTE.

3. JAWORSKI STATEMENT:

QUOTE

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION TO ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING THE EMBASSY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAS ISSUED TODAY OVER MY SIGNATURE AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.

"RECENT PRESS REPORTS AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US INDICATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW BEING CONDUCTED BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONCERNING THE TESTIMONY OF TONGSUN PARK. WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS CONTEMPLATE THAT MR. PARK WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 295028

STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT OR ANY OTHER COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.

"THESE ARRANGEMENTS IF AGREED TO CONSTITUTE AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FROM ITS RIGHTFUL ACCESS TO THE TESTIMONY OF MR. PARK. FOR THAT REASON IN MY CAPACITY AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT I CANNOT ACCEPT THEM.

"CONGRESS IS NOT BOUND BY ANY AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. FURTHERMORE I AM CERTAIN THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WILL DEPLORE ANY EFFORT TO DEPRIVE THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF ACCESS TO A KEY WITNESS IN AN INVESTIGATION THAT IS FOCUSED UPON CONGRESS ITSELF. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE REACTION OF OUR LEGISLATORS AND OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO ANY ARRANGEMENT THAT HAMPERS OUR INVESTIGATION WILL BE CRITICAL AND ADVERSE TO SOUTH KOREANS INTERESTS.

"I TRUST THAT THE FOREGOING WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO APPROPRIATE PERSONS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC

OF KOREA. THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS COMMUNICATION WILL BE
MADE PUBLIC BY MY OFFICE TODAY." UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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